TELECOMMUNICATIONS/Television Ownership

SUBJECT: Telecommunications Competition and Deregulation Act of 1995 . . . S. 652. Dorgan modified amendment No. 1278.

ACTION: AMENDMENT REJECTED, 47-52

SYNOPSIS: As reported, S. 652, the Telecommunications Competition and Deregulation Act of 1995, will amend

telecommunications laws and reduce regulations in order to promote competition in the telecommunications industry by eliminating barriers that prevent telephone companies, cable companies, and broadcasters from entering one another's markets. It will also permit electric utilities to enter the cable and telephone markets. Judicial control of telecommunications policy, including the "Modified Final Judgment" regime, will be terminated.

The Dorgan modified amendment would strike section (207)(b)(1), which will change from the current 25 percent to 35 percent the percentage of the television market that any one entity may reach through ownership of multiple television stations, and which will eliminate the current 12-station ownership limit on television stations for any one entity. In lieu thereof, it would provide that the FCC would modify or remove local ownership rules as they apply to television broadcasters to the extent necessary to allow them to compete fairly, while at the same time making sure that the public receives information from a diversity of media sources and local information.

NOTE: The Senate first voted to accept the Dorgan modified amendment (see vote No. 253), and then agreed to reconsider that motion (see vote No. 254).

For debate, see vote No. 253.

YEAS (47)			NAYS (52)			NOT VOTING (0)	
Republicans (8 or 15%)	Democrats (39 or 85%)		Republicans (45 or 85%)		Democrats (7 or 15%)	Republicans (0)	Democrats (0)
Campbell DeWine Domenici Faircloth Gorton Grassley Helms McConnell	Akaka Baucus Biden Bingaman Boxer Bradley Bumpers Byrd Conrad Daschle Dodd Dorgan Exon Feingold Feinstein Glenn Graham Harkin Heflin	Inouye Johnston Kennedy Kerrey Kerry Kohl Lautenberg Leahy Levin Lieberman Mikulski Moseley-Braun Murray Pell Pryor Reid Rockefeller Sarbanes Simon Wellstone	Abraham Ashcroft Bennett Bond Brown Burns Chafee Coats Cochran Cohen Coverdell Craig D'Amato Dole Frist Gramm Grams Gregg Hatch Hatfield Hutchison Inhofe	Jeffords Kassebaum Kempthorne Kyl Lott Lugar McCain Murkowski Nickles Packwood Pressler Roth Santorum Shelby Simpson Smith Snowe Specter Stevens Thomas Thompson Thurmond Warner	Breaux Bryan Ford Hollings Moynihan Nunn Robb	VOTING PRE Mack EXPLANAT 1—Official 2—Necessar 3—Illness 4—Other SYMBOLS: AY—Annot AN—Annot PY—Paired PN—Paired	CION OF ABSENCE Buisiness ily Absent anced Yea anced Nay Yea